

House File 12 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 12

BY WHEELER, HOLT, STONE,
FISHER, COLLINS, MOORE,
GUSTOFF, JENEARY, VONDRAN,
WULF, SHIPLEY, BRADLEY,
DEYOE, RINKER, WILLS,
JOHNSON, GUSTAFSON, BODEN,
SHERMAN, KAUFMANN, ANDREWS,
THOMSON, M. THOMPSON,
HENDERSON, DIEKEN, GRABER,
OSMUNDSON, WINDSCHITL,
GRASSLEY, BOSSMAN, and
GERHOLD

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to social studies instruction in public
2 schools, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
2 2023, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Five units of the social studies including instruction
4 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration
5 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in
6 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting
7 an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a minimum
8 of one-half unit of United States government and one unit of
9 United States history. The one-half unit of United States
10 government shall include ~~the~~ all of the following:

11 (1) The voting procedure as described in this lettered
12 paragraph and section 280.9A. ~~The government instruction shall~~
13 ~~also include a~~

14 (2) A study of the Constitution of the United States and the
15 Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution and an assessment
16 of a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of
17 Rights.

18 (3) A comparative discussion of political ideologies,
19 including communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the
20 principles of freedom and democracy that were essential to the
21 founding of the United States.

22 Sec. 2. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph g, Code
23 2023, is amended to read as follows:

24 g. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section
25 256.7, subsection 21, and the educational standards of section
26 256.11, unless specifically waived by the state board during
27 the application process; provided, however, that the state
28 board shall not waive the educational standards related to
29 social studies instruction established in section 256.11,
30 subsection 5, paragraph "b".

31 EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill relates to social studies instruction in public
35 schools, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools.

1 The bill requires that the one-half unit of United States
2 government that is required to be taught in grades 9 through 12
3 in public schools, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter
4 schools shall include a comparative discussion of political
5 ideologies that conflict with the principles of freedom and
6 democracy that were essential to the founding of the United
7 States.